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Why Svetlana Went Home

Svetlana Alliluyeva, the daughter of Joseph Stalin, left the Soviet Union for the West 17 years ago, lured by "blind idealization of the so-called free world." But "I was not free there a single day," she told her first — and presumably last — news conference since her return to Moscow last month.

The meeting in Moscow last week was arranged at her request, the Foreign Ministry said, after she was intensively sought out by Western correspondents. Her dissatisfaction with her two years in Britain and 15 years in the United States was expressed in largely political terms in her prepared statement. She described herself as "a favorite trained dog" of the C.I.A. and said she had fallen into "the hands of businessmen, lawyers and politicians who turned the name of my father, my own name and my life into sensational goods."

In response to questions, Miss Alliluyeva played down politics, saying the final decision to go home was prompted by the illness of her son and desire to renew contact with a daughter. She returned with her other daughter, American-born Olga, whom she once described as "American as apple pie." "For men, politics is indeed important," she said, "but for women, the main interest is the family."

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and Henry Giniger